

Minutes of the VV&A TWG of 25 March 1996

1. Dr. Sanders called the meeting to order at 1305. The following members were present:

Dr. Patricia Sanders, Chair	William Dunn, Army Rep
MAJ Bill Cabrera, Marine Corps Rep	Jim Weatherly, Navy Rep
Priscilla Glasow, DMSO Rep	John Sessler
Larry Cantwell	Tom Rozanski
Francis Cline	LCDR Dave Hattery
Jim Sikora	CDR Steve Petri
Susan Solick	Simone Youngblood
Lt Col Crash Konwin	Joan Morgan

2. The following also attended:

Col (sel) Mark Jefferson, DMSO	LTC Peter Polk, DMSO
Dr. Don Ponikvar, DMSO Support	Steven Starner, DMSO Support
Mike Borowski	Dale Atkinson

3. Col (sel) Jefferson briefed the TWG on the Conceptual Models of the Mission Space (CMMS) and provided a demonstration of existing CMMS capability. Discussion centered on concern that the libraries and databases built in conjunction with the CMMS and the MSRR would not continue to be supported and maintained once constructed. The information from Col (sel) Jefferson's presentation is available on the DMSO web page.

4. LTC Polk facilitated an open discussion regarding the required interfaces between the HLA, CMMS and VV&A efforts. The purpose of the discussion was to provide rigor and content to the development of the DoD VV&A Recommended Practices Guide and the Annex to the HLA Baseline Definition.

a. Initial focus was on the V&V of the SOM. It was agreed that accreditation is not relevant to a SOM. The question was asked whether SOMs are developed for stand-alone models. (Later reference noted that a SOM is not required if a developer is convinced that the model will never be used in an HLA federation context, however any model which is not HLA compliant runs the risk of future funding reductions due to its incompatibility with all other HLA compliant models.)

b. A second point was made that some minimum level of required V&V needs to be established for individual models and simulations, as they might later be used as federates. The point was made that a model can never, by definition, be fully verified and validated. It was noted that the draft DoDI on VV&A does identify some requirements for when V&V must be done. The HLA process diagram reflects a process which is

future-focused, where there already exists previous FOMs, SOMs, etc. Dr. Sanders commented that given prior VV&A, there is a need to identify what additional VV&A needs to be done in order to federate in a credible manner. The lack of rigorous V&V of federate models is a significant issue in the V&V of a federation. It was agreed that the Guide and the Annex must each address minimum V&V requirements. Simone Youngblood is working this issue as part of her chapter in the Guide.

c. A third issue was raised regarding the development of recommended practices which are relevant only within DoD and are not tied to commercial standards. It was quickly noted that there are no industry standards for VV&A. By writing the Guide as a recommended resource vice mandatory policy, it provides other users a greater freedom to choose the extent to which the recommended practices are applied.

d. Dr. Ponikvar provided excellent insight into the HLA process diagram, about which there was considerable misunderstanding. It was agreed that members of the TWG need to review the HLA material which is on the DMSO web page, and to provide questions to Dr. Ponikvar or Priscilla Glasow. Dr. Ponikvar will also be called upon to guide the VV&A Tech Team's subsequent discussions of the HLA/VV&A interface.

5. Priscilla Glasow briefly reviewed the purpose and possible agenda topics for the next meeting, which will be a joint session with the VV&C group.

6. Bill Dunn provided a short de-brief from his JAST SEP presentation to the EXCIMS on 21 March 1996. At issue is the need for a Simulation Plan, for which the Program Office wants assurances that there will be some real benefit for developing. It was noted that the program name is now Joint Strike Fighter, vice JAST. There is a need to determine whether the DAB perceives value added in continuing the efforts of the SEP team. Bill Dunn and Lt Col Konwin will meet with Dr. Sanders and LTC Polk to determine the next step for the team's work.

7. The TWG identified three possible dates for the next meeting, for proposal to the VV&C group. The members decided that they would send questions and issues regarding the VV&A/VV&C interface to Priscilla Glasow prior to the next meeting so that Dr. Sanders would be able to frame a useful discussion. Other future meeting topics include a follow-up HLA discussion/explanation session with Dr. Ponikvar and a brief from Margaret Loper on HLA compliance testing.